

Gray Wolf Population 2004-2005

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Abstract

The Wisconsin wolf population in late winter 2005 was 425 to 455 wolves in 108 packs and included 14 loners. A total of 414+ wolves occurred outside Indian reservations, thus the population exceeded its management goal of 350 wolves outside of Indian reservations by 64+ wolves. The wolf population had increased by 14% from the 2004 population of 373 wolves in the state. Wolf packs occurred in at least 31 counties and wolves were reported in 46 counties.

Introduction

Gray wolves recolonized Wisconsin in the mid-1970's and WDNR has monitored populations annually since 1979. In 1975 the Wisconsin DNR listed the gray wolf as a state endangered species and downlisted them to threatened status in 1999. On March 24, 2004, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved delisting wolves from threatened status. This state delisting was finalized on August 1 2004, when wolves were classified as protected wild animals.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed gray wolves in the eastern U.S. as endangered in 1967 and again in 1974. The Service downlisted wolves to federally threatened status on 1 April 2003, and began a delisting process in July 2004, which should have been completed in summer 2005. But because of a federal district court decision in Oregon, on January 31, 2005 wolves were relisted as endangered in Wisconsin and other locations. The Oregon judge agreed with several environmental groups that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was too broad in its designation of recovered wolf population across the lower 48 states. The judge did not question whether wolves had recovered in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. A new proposal for delisting in the Great Lakes region may be initiated in the near future.

As part of the federal and state delisting processes, intense population surveys are needed to determine the status of the wolf population in the state. This report summarizes wolf survey activity for 2004 and portions of 2005.

Method

Wolf numbers were determined by live-trapping/ radio tracking (Mech 1974, Fuller and Snow 1988), howl surveys (Harrington and Mech 1982), and winter track surveys (Thiel and Welch 1981, Wydeven et al. 1996). Track surveys were conducted in blocks of suitable habitat (Mladenoff et al. 1995), or areas where wolves had been reported. Additional information on wolf abundance was determined from wolves reported by agency personnel or general public through "Rare Mammal Observation Cards" (Wydeven 1992). See Wydeven et al. 2005 for more details on the methods.

Results and Discussion

A minimum count of 425 to 455 wolves was obtained in Wisconsin in late winter 2004-2005 (Table1). At least 108 packs were located in 21 northern and 10 central Wisconsin counties

(Figure 1, Tables 1 & 2). Average size of 95 northern packs was 3.8 to 4.1 wolves and 3.6 to 3.8 for 13 central Wisconsin packs. A total of 14 wolves were identified as lone wolves across the state, but the total number of lone wolves across the state was probably underestimated.

Figure 2 illustrates the changes in the Wisconsin wolf population over the last 26 years. In 2005 the population had increased from 14% from the population 373 in late winter 2004. The population increased an average of 20% annually from 1985 through 2002, but between 2002 and 2005, annual increases averaged 9%, suggesting that population growth is slowing down.

A total of 66 wolves were found dead in Wisconsin in 2004, including 16 wolves with radio collars, and 13 that were actively being monitored (Table 3). A total of 60 radio tagged wolves were monitored by radio-telemetry in Wisconsin in 2004, and 13 of these were known to have died (22%). Among the actively monitored wolves that died, mortality included: 3 (23%) mange, 1 (8%) other wolves, 4 (31%) illegal shooting, 2 (15%) vehicle collisions, 1 (8%) euthanized at depredation, and 2 (15%) capture related. Mortality in the overall sample of 66 dead wolves included: 6 (9%) mange, 1 (2%) other wolves, 8 (12%) illegal shooting, 23 (35%) vehicle collisions, 24 (36%) euthanized at depredation, 2 (3%) capture related, 1 (2%) accident, and 1 (2%) unknown. Natural mortalities such as disease and intraspecific strife tend to be higher for the collared wolves, and are infrequently detected in non-collared animals. Vehicle collisions tend to be higher for the non-collared sample, in part due to these being readily observed and reported, but also may be because the non-collared sample includes wolves dispersing through the state in marginal habitat with high density of roads. Rate of illegal kill among collared wolves was higher in 2004 than 2003 (31% vs. 20%), but for overall sample was similar (12% in 2004 vs. 17% in 2003).

Wolf observations classified as “possible” or “probable” occurred in 46 Wisconsin counties in 2004. The 252 reports of wolf observations were down from 2003 (330 reports), and 2002 (355 reports). Highest rates of reported observations were for Marinette (29), Iron (21), Washburn (15), Forest (14), and Rusk (14) Counties. Highest observations were from counties with breeding packs, although reports seem to be declining in counties where wolves are becoming more commonplace. The overall decline in reports on wolf observations is probably due in part to declines in reports from areas where wolves have become very common. Although the number of counties with wolf observations was highest ever reported, some of these still may include mistaken identifications.

The wolf count in 2004-2005 included 414 to 442 wolves outside Indian reservations in Wisconsin. The state long-term population goal is to maintain 350 wolves in the state outside Indian reservations (Wisconsin DNR 1999), thus the current count represents about 64 to 92 wolves above the population goal. Currently the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service only allows lethal controls by permit on wolves verified as depredators on domestic animals on private land. Additional population controls will not be possible until federal delisting is completed.

The federal delisting goal for Wisconsin and Michigan was a population of 100 or more wolves for a period of 5 or more years (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992). The wolf population currently is 830 wolves for both states (405 in Michigan) and has been at 100 or more since 1994. Although the delisting process begun in summer 2004 is currently stalled, hopefully the process will be re-started again soon for Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, where wolf recovery has occurred far beyond goals set for the region.

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/publications/wolfreports/>

Table 1. Pack and lone wolf summaries in Wisconsin, winter 2004-2005. (Map #'s refer to Figure 1.)

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
<u>Northern Wisconsin</u>								
1	Foxboro	2,1	Douglas	1	0	T	O	N
2	Truck Trail	2	Douglas/Pine	3-4	1-2	R&T	268M A	Y
3	North Empire	3	Douglas	5	2+	T	O	Y
4	South Empire	3	Douglas	3-4	1+	T	O	Y
5	Lyman Lake	4,3	Douglas	2	0	R&T	496M A 512F A	? ?
6	Moose Lake	4,9	Douglas	9	4-6	R&T	473M A	Y
7	Shoberg Lake	6,8,26	Douglas/Bayf	4	2	T	O	Y
8	Casey Creek	7,31	Douglas/Bayf	2-4	1?	O	O	?
9	Poplar River	7	Douglas	2	0	O	O	?
10	Chain Lake	8,23	Douglas	3	1?	T	O	N
11	Crotte Creek	9	Douglas	4	0-2	T&O	O	Y
12	Bird Sanctuary	9,3	Douglas	4	0-2	R&T	447F A	Y
13	Riverside	10	Burnett,Dougl	4-5	2	T	O	Y
14	Moose Road	11,2	Douglas	3	1-2	T&R	471M A 478F A	Y
15	Chase Brook	11	Burnett/Dougl	2	0	T	O	N
16	Stuntz Brook	12	Washburn	6	4	T	O	Y
17	Crex Meadow	13	Burnett	2-3	1	T&O	O	?
18	Sterling Barrens	14	Burnett/Polk	5-6	2-3	T	O	?
19	Wolf Creek	14	Polk	3	0	T&O	O	?
20	Clam River	17	Polk/Burnett	3	1?	R	460F A	?
21	Sand Creek	17	Burn/Polk/Barr	3	1?	T	O	?
22	Wolf Lake	19	Washb/Sawyer	2	0	T	O	N
23	Blue Hills South	20,126	Rusk/Barron	2	0	T	O	Y
24	Blue Hills North	20	Rusk/Sawyer	3	?	O&T	O	?
25	Tranus Lake	22	Washburn	4	0-2	R&T	446F A	?
26	Frog Creek	23	Washb/Doug	4	0-2	T	O	Y
27	Ghost Lake	24	Sawyer/Bayf	5	2-3	T	O	Y
28	Seeley Hills	24,29	Bayf./Sawyer	2	0	T	O	Y
29	Smoky Hill	25	Sawyer/Bayf	4	2	T	O	Y
30	Bearsdale	25,29,27	Bayfield	6	2-3	R&T	521M	Y
31	Moreland Lake	26	Bayfield/Dougl	3-6	1-3	O	O	?
32	Rainbow Lake	27,28	Bayfield	2	0	T	O	Y
33	Ino Swamp	27	Bayfield	1	0	T	O	?
34	Bibbon Swamp	28	Bayfield	4	1-2	T	O	Y
35	Porcupine Lake	29,35	Bayfield	3	0?	T	O	Y
36	Twin Lakes	30,33	Bayfield	5	2-3	R	501M A	?
37	Orienta Falls	31	Bayfield/Dougl	4	0-2	T	O	Y
38	Flag River	31,30	Bayfield	3	0-1?	R	439F A	?
39	Siskiwit Lake	32,33	Bayfield	3	0-1/	T	O	N
40	Echo Valley	33	Bayfield	4	1-2	T	O	Y
41	Beaver Dam Lake	34,35	Ashland/Bayf	4	0-2	T	O	N
42	Hellhole Creek	35	Bayfield/Ashl	6-7	3-4	T&R	444F A	Y
43	Brush Creek	36	Ashland	4	0-2	T	O	Y
44	Black Lake	37	Sawyer/Ashl	3	0?	R&T	462M A	Y
45	Round Lake	37,42,24	Sawyer	3	0-1	T		Y
46	Torch River	37,38,36	Ashland/Sawyer	5-7	3-4	T&R	248M A	Y
47	Shanagolden	38,36	Ashland	9	3-6	R&T	475F A	Y
48	Hungry Run	40,37,38	Ashland/Sawyer	4	1-2	R&T	877F A	Y
49	West Firelane	39,60	Ashland	4	1?	T/R	036F A	Y

Table 1. Continued.

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
50	Morrison Creek	39,60	Iron/Ashl/MI	3-5	1-3	O	O	?
51	Log Creek	40	Saw/Ashl/Price	3	0?	T	O	Y
52	Price Creek	41,44	Price/Sawyer	4-5	1-2	T	O	Y
53	Thornapple River	41,43	Sawyer	2	0	T	O	Y
54	Davis Lake	41,52	Price	5	2-3	T	O	Y
55	Eddy Creek	42	Sawyer	4	1-2	O	O	?
56	Tupper Creek	43	Sawyer	5	3	T	O	Y
57	Haystack Corner	43	Sawyer/Rusk	4-5	1-3	T	O	Y
58	Spring Creek	44,51,46	Price	6	2-4	T&R	509F P	Y
59	Skinner Creek	44,41	Price	5-6	2-3	T	O	Y
60	Pershing W.A.	45,47	Taylor	1-2	0	T	O	Y
61	Green Creek	46,44	Price/Rusk	3	1?	T	O	Y
62	Kidrick Swamp	47,46	Taylor	3-4	0-2	T	O	Y
63	Mondeaux Flowage	47,46	Taylor	6	3-4	T	O	Y
64	Spirit Lake	49,48	Taylor/Price	2	0	R	456F A	?
65	Musser Creek	51	Price	2	0	R	481M A	Y
66	Little Rice River	51,67	Oneida/Price	8	3-5	R&T	355M A	Y
67	Bootjack Lake	53,52	Price/Oneida	8	3-5	R&T	466F A 505F A 9000	Y
68	Miles Lake	54	Price/Iron/Vila	4	2	T	O	Y
69	Wintergreen	54,52	Price	4	1-2?	T	O	Y
70	Hoffman Lake	55	Iron/Ashl/Price	4	0-2	T	O	Y
71	Murray's Landing	55,54,64	Iron	3	0-1	O	O	?
72	Eastside Firelane	56	Ashland	2	0	T	O	Y
73	Chippewa River	56,57,58	Iron/Ashland	4	2	T&O	O	
74	Augustine Lake	57	Ashland/Iron	8-10	5-8	T	O	Y
75	Magee Creek	57,56	Ashland	9	5-6	R	726M A	Y
76	O'Brien Lake	57,59	Iron	2-3	0?	T	O	Y
77	Pine Lake	58,59,61	Iron	3	1	T/R	508F Y	N
78	Whitney Lake	63	Vilas	2-3	0?	O	O	?
79	North Willow	65	Oneida	5	2-3	R/T	461F Y	Y
80	Swamp Creek	67,65	Oneida	2	0	T	O	?
81	Somo River	68	Lincoln	5	1-3	R	514F A	?
82	Ranger Island	69	Lincoln	3	1?	O	O	?
83	Averill Creek North	70,49	Linc/Price/Tayl	8	2-6	R	485F A	Y
84	Averill Creek S	70,48	Lincoln/Taylor	5	2-3	R	495M P	?
85	Clearwater Creek	72,74	Langlade	3	0-1?	O	O	?
*	Ackley Loner	73	Langlade	1	0	O	O	N
86	Harrison Hills	75,76	Lincoln/Oneida	3	1?	T	O	Y
87	Pelican Lake	76	Oneida	2	0	T	O	Y
*	Stone Lake Loner	79	Oneida	1	0	O	O	N
88	Escanaba Lk. Loner	80	Vilas	1	0	T	O	?
89	Nineweb Lake	81,80	Vilas	3-5	1-2?	R&T	499M A	?
*	Phelps Loner	82	Vilas	1	0	T	O	N
90	Giant Pine	85,84	Forest/Oneida	2	0	T	O	Y
91	Atkins Lake	86,77	Forest/Oneida	2	0	T	O	N
92	Ada Lake	92	Langl/Forest	2	0	O	O	?
93	McArthur Pine	95	Forest	2	0	T	O	Y
*	WI Creek Loner	99	Florence	1	0	T	O	N
94	Camp 6	101	Forest/Marin.	2	0	T	O	N
95	Eagle Creek	106,102	Marin/Oconto	2-3	0?	T	O	N

Table 1. Continued.

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
96	Pike River	107,106	Marinette	3-4	1-2	T & R	336M A	Y
97	Dunbar	108,107	Marin./Floren.	9	4-6	T	O	Y
*	Firelane Loner	112	Marinette	1	0	T	O	N
98	Lake Noquebay	113	Marinette	3	1?	T	O	Y
99	Long Lake	126,45	Rusk	2	0	R/T	393F A	Y
100	Embarrass River	130	Shawa/Marath	1	0	R	454FA	N
101	Oconto River	131,90	Ocont/Menom	1	0	R&T	474M A	N
							452F A	
*	479M Loner	Several	Taylor, Rusk	1	0	R	479M Y	N
*	509F Loner	Several	Sawyer, Price	1	0	R	509F P	N
Northern WI Totals		13 Loners 95 Packs	377-405 Total wolves 3.8-4.1 wolves/pack				104 –174 Pups	
<u>Central Wisconsin</u>								
102	Dewey Marsh		Portage	4	1-2?	O	O	?
103	Eau Claire River	117	Clark/E.Claire	4	1-2?	T	O	Y
104	Iron Run	118,117	Clark/E.Claire	4	1-2?	T	O	Y
105	Wedges Creek	118	Clark	2	0	T	O	Y
106	2-Korner	119	Clark/Jackson	2+	0	T&O	O	Y
107	Noch Hanai	119	Jackson	3	1?	T	O	Y
108	Wildcat Mound	120	Jackson	3-5	1-2	T&R	480M A	Y
109	Bear Bluff	121	Jack/Jun/Wood	7	3-5	R&T	311F A	Y
							484M P	
							502M P	
110	South Bluff	121	Wood	2	0	T	O	Y?
111	Dead Creek	121,122	Monr/Jack/Jun	7	3-5	T	O	Y
112	Fort McCoy	123	Monroe	4	2?	T & R	465F	Y
113	Rattail	125	Juneau/Wood	3	1?	T & R	338M A	Y
114	Colburn W.A.	127	Adams	1	0	O	O	N
115	Mead W.A.	133	Wood/Marath	2	0	T	O	N
Central WI Totals		1 Loner 13 Packs	48 -50 Total wolves 3.6 –3.8 wolves/pack				14-18 Pups	
Statewide Totals	14 Loners 108 Packs	425-455 Total wolves 3.8-4.1 wolves/pack		11-13 wolves on reservations 414-442 off reservations			118-192 Pups	

¹ R = Radiotelemetry T = Track Surveys O = Observation Reports² Y = Yes N = No Y? = Possible ? = Unknown

* Loners not mapped.

Table 2. Wolf pack territories 2004-2005. (mapped in Figure 1)

Pack Name	Map #	Year ^a	Collared Wolf	# of radio locations	# of other locations ^b	Area (Mi ²)
Zone 1						
Ada Lake	92	Approx. ^c	None	0	3	NE ^d
Atkins Lake	91	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Augustine Lake	74	1999	W229 ^e	0	9	NE
Averill Creek North	83	2005	W485	51	1	73
Averill Creek South	84	2005	W495	42	0	77
Bearsdale	30	2005	W472, 521	42	7	85
Beaver Dam Lake	41	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Bibbon Swamp	34	Approx.	W3124,3187	3	13	NE
Bird Sanctuary	12	2005	W447	51	12	44
Black Lake	44	2005	W462	28	12	35
Blue Hills North	24	Approx.	None	0	3	NE
Bootjack Lake	67	2005	W466, 505, 9000	82	4	129
Brush Creek	43	2002	M310 ^e	0	9	NE
Camp 6	94	Approx.	None	0	9	NE
Casey Creek	8	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Chain Lake	10	2004	W291	0	5	NE
Chase Brook	15	2002	W367	0	1	NE
Chippewa River	73	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Clearwater Creek	85	Approx.	None	0	5	NE
Crex Meadow	17	Approx.	None	0	3	NE
Crotte Creek	11	2002	W296 ^e	0	5	NE
Davis Lake	54	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Dunbar	97	2004	W474 ^e	28	20	42
Eagle Creek	95	Approx.	None	0	6	NE
Eastside Firelane	72	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Echo Valley	40	Approx.	None	0	5	NE
Eddy Creek	55	Approx.	None	0	3	NE
Escanaba Lake	88	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Flag River	38	2005	W439	51	0	52
Foxboro	1	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Frog Creek	26	Approx.	None	0	5	NE
Ghost Lake	27	Approx.	None	0	9	NE
Giant Pine	90	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Green Creek	61	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Harrison Hills	86	Approx.	None	0	10	NE
Haystack Corner	57	Approx.	None	0	13	NE
Hellhole Creek	42	2005	W444	50	11	61
Hoffman Lake	70	2003	W459 ^e	21	9	69
Hungry Run	48	2005	W477	41	3	60
Ino Swamp	33	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Kidrick Swamp	62	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Little Rice River	66	2005	W355, 507	53	18	116
Log Creek	51	2002	W286 ^e	0	8	NE
Lyman Lake	5	2005	W496, 512	59	1	44
Magee Creek	75	2005	M726	46	0	34
McArthur Pine	93	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Miles Lake	68	Approx	None	0	6	NE
Mondeaux Flowage	63	2003	W441 ^e	15	5	NE
Moose Lake	6	2005	W473	50	8	37

Table 2. Continued.

Pack Name	Map #	Year^a	Collared Wolf	# of radio locations	# of other locations^b	Area (Mi²)
Moose Road	14	2005	W471,478	38	6	56
Moreland Lake	31	2004	W464	26	2	56
Morrison Creek	50	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Murray's Landing	71	2004	W469,481 ^e	20	3	50
Musser Creek	65	2005	W481	51	3	30
Nineweb Lake	89	2005	W499	45	3	30
North Empire	3	2000	W298 ^e	0	1	NE
North Willow	79	2005	W461	51	20	49
O'Brien Lake	76	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Orienta Falls	37	Approx.	None	0	6	NE
Pelican Lake	87	Approx.	None	0	6	NE
Pershing Wildl. Area	60	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Pike River	96	2005	W336	31	16	33
Pine Lake	77	2005	W508	40	7	84
Poplar River	9	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Porcupine Lake	35	2004	W241 ^e	15	4	NE
Price Creek	52	2001	W368 ^e	0	5	NE
Rainbow Lake	32	1996	W255 ^e	0	3	NE
Ranger Island	82	2004	G994, W479	50	0	21
Riverside	13	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Round Lake	45	2004	W457 ^e	34	8	88
Seeley Hills	28	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Shanagolden	47	2005	W475	40	11	76
Shoberg Lake	7	1999	W290 ^e	0	7	NE
Siskiwit Lake	39	2003	W369 ^e	49	4	45
Skinner Creek	59	Approx.	None	0	15	NE
Smoky Hill	29	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Somo River	81	2005	W514	37	2	31
South Empire	4	2003	W297 ^e	0	2	NE
Spirit Lake	64	2005	W456	33	0	52
Spring Creek	58	2005	W509	17	8	52
Sterling Barrens	18	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Stuntz Brook	16	1999	W295 ^e	0	8	NE
Swamp Creek	80	Approx.	None	0	0	NE
Thornapple River	53	1997	W239 ^e	0	2	NE
Torch River	46	2005	W248	49	14	69
Tranus Lake	25	2005	W446	38	3	23
Truck Trail	2	2005	W268	20	25	36
Tupper Creek	56	1998	W276 ^e	0	7	NE
Twin Lakes	36	2005	W468, 501B	26	2	78
West Firelane	49	2005	M036	50	15	50
Whintey Lake	78	Approx.	None	0	6	NE
Wintergreen	69	Approx.	None	0	10	NE
Wolf Creek	19	Approx.	None	0	2	NE
Wolf Lake	22	Approx.	None	0	1	NE

Table 2. Continued.

Pack Name	Map #	Year^a	Collared Wolf	# of radio locations	# of other locations^b	Area (Mi²)
<u>Zone 2</u>						
2-Korner	106	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Bear Bluff	109	2005	W311,417,418,484	84	11	76
Colburn Wildlife Area	114	Approx.	None	0	0	NE
Dead Creek	111	2004	W411 ^e	19	12	NE
Eau Claire River	103	Approx.	None	0	6	NE
Iron Run	104	2003	W309 ^e	45	5	44
Noch Hanai	107	Approx.	None	0	16	NE
Rattail	113	2005	W338	38	3	47
South Bluff	110	Approx.	None	0	16	NE
Wedges Creek	105	Approx.	None	0	4	NE
Wildcat Mound	108	2005	W480 ^e	16	23	NE
<u>Zone 3</u>						
Blue Hills South	23	Approx.	None	0	7	NE
Clam River	20	2005	W460	52	1	31
Dewey Marsh	102	Approx.	None	0	3	NE
Embarrass River	100	2005	W454	35	1	49
Ft. McCoy	112	2005	W465 ^e	4	19	NE
Lake Noquebay	98	Approx.	None	0	15	NE
Long Lake	99	2005	W393	50	4	22
Mead Wildlife Area	115	Approx.	None	0	1	NE
Oconto River	101	2005	W449,452,454,474	89	4	56
Sand Creek	21	Approx.	None	0	7	NE

^a Pack territory boundaries based on available radio locations between 15 April of the previous year to 14 April of the year listed.

^b Other locations from track surveys, mortalities, depredations, & public and agency reports in 2004-2005.

^c Territory boundaries approximated based on track surveys, mortalities, depredations, & public and agency reports.

^d No estimate

^e Territory boundaries based on radiolocations have been significantly modified based on additional location information for this pack and/or surrounding packs.

Table 3. *Wolf mortality in Wisconsin in 2004.*

Date	Wolf Number	Age/Sex	County	Cause	Pack
01/01/04	----	P?/M	Bayfield	Vehicle collision	Smoky Hill
01/06/04	----	A/F	Marathon	Vehicle collision	Disperser
01/28/04	----	Y?/F	Jefferson	Vehicle collision	Disperser
01/29/04	----	Y/F	Outagamie	Vehicle collision ^a	Disperser
01/31/04	----	Y?/M	Oconto	Mange?	Butler Rock
02/03/04	W438	A/M	Bayfield	Mange	Flag River
02/16/04	W340	A/F	Juneau	Shot	Rattail
02/16/04	W341	3yr/F	Wood	Shot	Seneca
02/16/04	W249	2yr/F	Door	Shot	Disperser?
02/22/04	----	Y/F	Wood	Vehicle collision ^a	Disperser
03/03/04	---- ^b	Y/F	Juneau	Vehicle collision	Hybrid?
03/16/04	W497	A/M	Iron	Mange	Chippewa River
03/16/04	----	A/M	Oneida	Mange?	Bootjack Lake
03/26/04	---- ^b	?/?	Marquette	Vehicle collision	Hybrid?
03/31/04	----	Y/M	Portage	Shot?/Mange?	Mead?
04/20/04	----	AF	Juneau	Vehicle collision	Disperser
04/24/04	----	Y?F	Marathon	Vehicle collision ^a	Disperser
04/27/04	W429	AF	Jackson	Vehicle collision ^a	Martin Marsh
04/27/04	W469	AM	Iron	Shot	Murray's Landing
04/28/04	----	AM	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	Long Lake
04/30/04	----	A?	Douglas	Vehicle collision?	Moose Lake?
05/05/04	----	YM	Brown	Vehicle collision	Disperser
05/06/04	----	?M	Portage	Vehicle collision	Mead?
05/08/04	M4914 ^d	YM	Rusk	Vehicle collision	Disperser
05/08/04	----	AM	Bayfield	Mange?	Bearsdale
05/19/04	----	A??	Adams	Vehicle collision	Colburn W.A.
05/21/04	----	YF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Bibbon Swamp
05/22/04	----	AF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Bibbon Swamp
05/26/04	----	AF	Sawyer	Vehicle collision?	Round Lake
05/28/04	----	A?	Langlade	Vehicle collision	Disperser?
05/29/04	----	AM	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	unknown
06/11/04	----	A?	Douglas	Vehicle collision?	Bird Sanctuary
06/11/04	---- ^b	P?	Forest	unknown	unknown
06/13/04	----	AM	Douglas	Euthanized ^c	Poplar River
06/14/04	W507	AM	Oneida	Capture related	Little Rice River

Table 3. Continued.

Date	Wolf Number	Age/Sex	County	Cause	Pack
06/15/04	W468	AF	Bayfield	Capture related	Moquah
06/18/04	----	AF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Ino Swamp?
06/19/04	----	AF	Douglas	Euthanized ^c	Poplar River
06/25/04	----	AM	Barron	Euthanized ^c	Blue Hills South
06/26/04	----	PM	Washburn	Vehicle collision	Tranus Lake?
07/08/04	----	YF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Bearsdale
07/10/04	W449	AM	Oconto	Euthanized ^c	Oconto River
07/19/04	----	Y?F	Burnett	Euthanized ^c	unknown
07/23/04	----	AF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Bibbon Swamp
08/05/04	----	AM	Douglas	Euthanized ^c	Lake Nebagamom
08/06/04	M5203 ^d	AM	Barron	Euthanized ^c	Blue Hills South
08/06/04	----	PM	Douglas	Euthanized ^c	Lake Nebagamom
08/06/04	----	AM	Douglas	Vehicle collision	Disperser
08/07/04	----	AF	Douglas	Euthanized ^c	Lake Nebagamom
08/09/04	----	AM	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Bibbon Swamp
08/15/04	----	AM	Barron	Euthanized ^c	Blue Hills South
08/21/04	W472	AF	Bayfield	Other wolves	Bearsdale
08/22/04	----	PF	Taylor	Euthanized ^c	Mondeaux Flowage
08/25/04	----	YF	Bayfield	Euthanized ^c	Moquah
09/01/04	W426	AF	Marquette	Vehicle collision	Caves Creek
09/01/04	----	PF	Marinette	Accidental ^e	Camp 6?
10/09/04	----	Y?/M	Rusk	Vehicle collision	Skinner Creek
10/13/04	----	Y?/F	Ashland	Vehicle collision	Torch River
10/14/04	----	P?/M	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	Long Lake
10/14/04	----	P?/F	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	Long Lake
10/16/04	----	A/F	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	Long Lake
10/21/04	----	A/M	Rusk	Euthanized ^c	Long Lake
11/03/04	W465	A/F	Monroe	Shot	Ft. McCoy
11/11/04	----	P?/F	Marinette	Shot	Pike River
11/26/04	----	A/M	Taylor	Shot	Averill Creek N?
12/22/04	W471	A?/M	Douglas	Mange?	Moose Road

66 mortalities, 16 of which were collared wolves

^a Euthanized after severe injury from vehicle collision.

^b Possibly not a wolf.

^c Captured by Wildlife Services at depredation site.

^d Michigan collared wolf.

^e Very poor condition - plastic pail stuck on head for ~2 weeks.

Table 4. *Probable and possible wolf observations reported by natural resource agency personnel and private citizens in Wisconsin, 2004.*

County	Number of Sightings	Wolves Seen	Track or Sign Observations	Total Wolf Observations
Adams	0	0	2	2
Ashland*	12	44	1	13
Barron	1	1	0	1
Bayfield*	9	19	4	13
Brown	5	6	1	6
Burnett*	2	2	3	5
Clark*	1	2	0	1
Dane	2	3	0	2
Door	6	9	0	6
Douglas*	3	4	1	4
Dunn	1	1	0	1
Eau Claire	1	1	1	2
Florence*	7	9	2	9
Forest*	7	10	7	14
Iowa	1	2	0	1
Iron*	17	24	4	21
Jackson*	3	15	1	4
La Crosse	1	1	1	2
Langlade*	3	3	1	4
Lincoln*	7	9	0	7
Manitowoc	2	4	0	2
Marathon*	3	3	0	3
Marinette*	21	33	8	29
Marquette	2	3	0	2
Menominee	0	0	1	1
Milwaukee	2	3	0	2
Monroe*	1	6	1	2
Oconto*	4	6	0	4
Oneida*	7	36	3	10
Outagamie	3	3	0	3
Polk*	3	10	2	5
Portage*	2	2	0	2
Price*	6	8	8	14
Rusk*	2	4	1	3
Sauk	1	1	0	1
Sawyer*	5	10	7	12
Shawano	2	2	1	3
Taylor*	2	2	0	2
Vernon	1	1	0	1
Vilas*	8	15	0	8
Washburn*	9	9	6	15
Washington	0	0	1	1
Waukesha	3	3	0	3
Waupaca	2	2	0	2
Waushara	1	1	0	1
Winnebago	3	3	0	3
Total	184	335-339+	68	252

*Counties believed to have packs with breeding activity in 2004. Juneau and Wood counties were also believed to have packs with breeding activity.

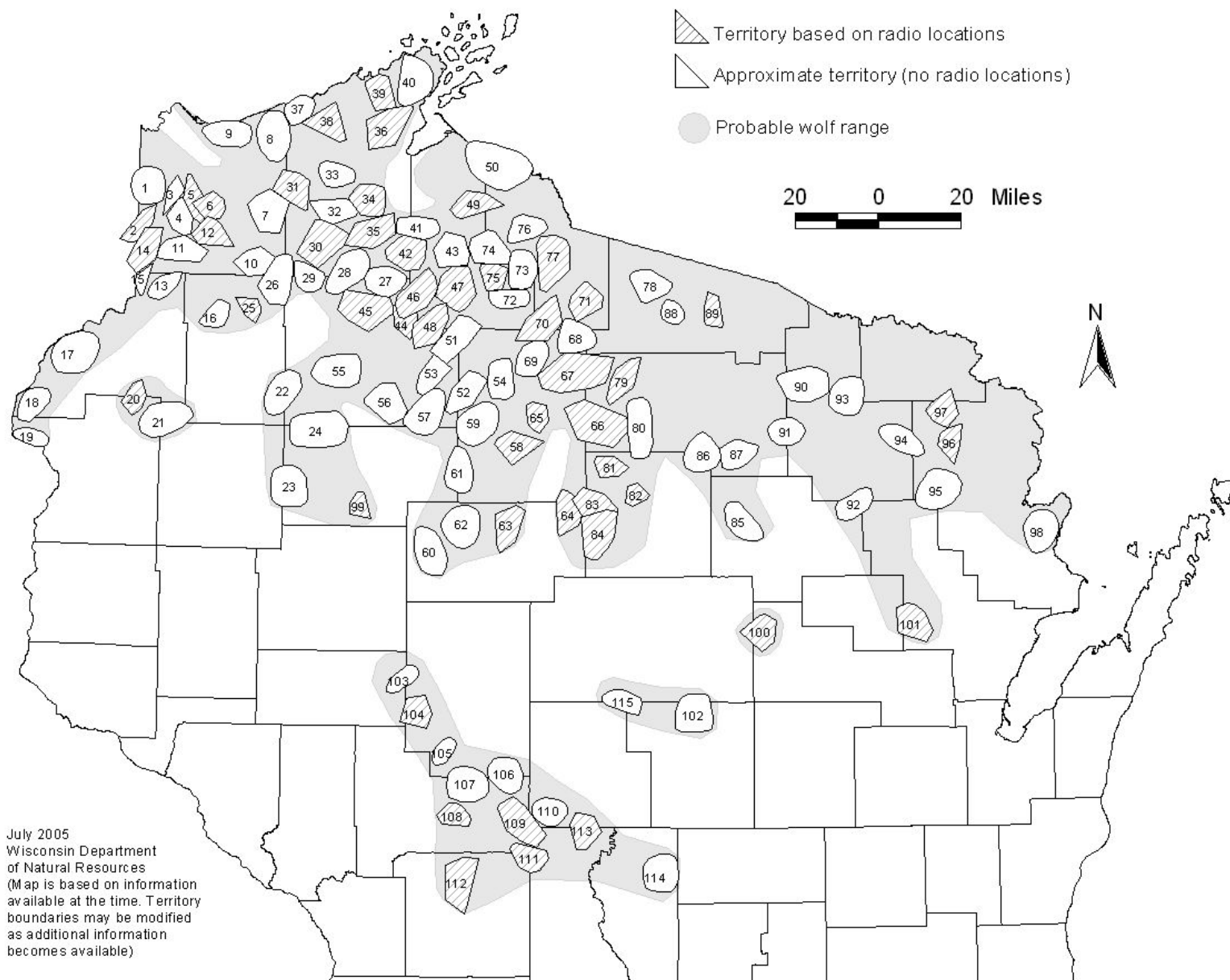


Figure 1. Gray Wolf Distribution in Wisconsin: Winter 2004-2005 (numbers refer to Tables 1 and 2).

Figure 2. Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2005

